What to revise!

|  | key points |
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| 1 | Overview of the meaning of ‘Cold War’, and the main tensions in the Grand Alliance.  The importance of wartime conferences (Tehran, the ‘Percentages Agreement’, Yalta), and their contribution to increased tensions. |
| 2 | The main issues at the Potsdam Conference, and the relations between Truman and Stalin.  The first steps in the emerging Cold War, 1946. |
| 3 | The growing divisions in 1947 — especially the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan.  The concept of ‘satellite states’, and the USSR’s establishment of such states in Eastern Europe in 1947-49 |
| 4 | Why had Germany been temporarily divided into zones in 1945? The reasons why Germany became a problem in the period 1945-47.  The main events of the Berlin Blockade and Airlift, and their main results. |
| 5 | Overview of what happened to Hungary 1945-53 under Stalin; the nature of the rule and role of Rakosi.  The impact of Stalin’s death in 1953 in Eastern Europe — ‘de-Stalinisation’. |
| 6 | The immediate impact of de-Stalinisation in Hungary; the fall of Rakosi; and the emergence of Nagy.  The response of the USSR/other East European states to Nagy’s reforms; the events and immediate consequences of the Hungarian Revolt; the response of the West. |
| 7 | Overview of the background to the Berlin Crisis, 1958-63; and the emerging refugee and spy problems.  The response of Khrushchev to the refugee and spy problems and Berlin. |
| 8 | The main features of the growing crisis over Berlin, 1958-61, the four summits and the U2 spy plane incident  The main details of events leading to the building of the Berlin Wall, 1961, and its consequences. |
| 9 | Overview of the background to the Cuban Missile Crisis – the nuclear arms race, US control of Cuba.  The Cuban Revolution, the Bay of Pigs, and Khrushchev’s decisions on missile bases in Cuba. |
| 10 | Overview of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 – the 13-day Crisis, and the roles of Kennedy and Khrushchev.  The short- and long-term consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis. |
| 11 | Overview of the background to the Prague Spring – Soviet control, communist rule in Czechoslovakia, the role of Dubcek.  The main events and features of the Prague Spring, 1968. |
| 12 | Overview of the Brezhnev Doctrine, and the reassertion of Soviet control in Czechoslovakia.  US and Western reactions to events in Czechoslovakia, and the impact of these on communist states and parties. |
| 13 | Outline of the main features of détente, and the treaties of 1967 and 1968.  The main developments in détente during the 1970s. |
| 14 | Outline of the main events in Afghanistan in 1978, and the reasons for the Soviet invasion in December 1979.  US reactions to the Soviet invasion — Carter and the end of détente. |
| 15 | Outline of the emergence of the Second Cold War, and Reagan’s early views and attitudes to the Cold War.  The main decisions/actions taken by Reagan, and Soviet responses to them. |
| 16 | The main features of Gorbachev’s initial ideas and plans, and his views about the Cold War and East/West relations.  The main features of Gorbachev’s ‘New Thinking’, and its impact on the Soviet Union and the rest of the world. |
| 17 | Outline of the relative strengths of the superpowers in 1985; the main summits and treaties; and the reasons why US-USSR relations changed in the period 1985-7.  The main features of Gorbachev’s attitude to Eastern Europe, and the collapse of communism in the Eastern Bloc. |
| 18 | Overview of the of the main features of Soviet reactions to the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the coup against Gorbachev.  The main features and significance of the final fall of Gorbachev and the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the end of the Cold War. |